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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/544,111

08/02/2005

Yoichi Takaragi

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EXAMINER

HON, MING Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No. 10/544,111	Applicant(s) TAKARAGI ET AL.	
	Examiner MING HON	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2 August 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment filed on December 22, 2008 is acknowledged. Currently Claims 1 and 17-20 are pending. Claims 2-16 were cancelled. Claims 17-20 are new.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect independent claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Amended claims 1 results in a different scope than that of the originally presented Claim 1 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zabetian USPN 6327656 in view of Cooley et al. US2002/0169721 hereinafter referred to as Cooley and Wu et al. US2002/0042884 hereinafter referred to as Wu.

As per Claim 1, Zabetian teaches a data processing method for an image processing system that includes a server apparatus, a print apparatus and a data processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a first extraction step of extracting, based on first image data, first feature information indicating a feature of the first image data; (Zabetian, Column 2, Lines 4-9)

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a registering step of registering, at the server apparatus, the transmitted first feature information; (Zabetian, Column 2, Lines 9-12, registering the information is analogous to maintaining the information)

a detecting step of detecting, at the data processing apparatus, identification information indicating the registered first feature information; (Zabetian, Column 5, Lines 5-24, the identification information indicating the first feature is considered to be the identification code.)

a second extraction step of extracting, based on second image data, second feature information indicating a feature of the second image data; (Zabetian, Column 2, Lines 21-40, the process taught by Zabetian can be performed multiple times due to user preference and possibly to increase the information held in the certification provider)

a second transmission step of transmitting, from the data processing apparatus to the server apparatus, the detected identification information and the extracted second feature information; (Zabetian, Column 5, Lines 8-15)

a confirming step of confirming, at the server apparatus, the transmitted second feature information based on the previously registered first feature information that is specified by the transmitted identification information; (Zabetian, Figure 4, Component 422)

a first notification step of notifying the data processing apparatus of a confirmation result; (Zabetian, Figure 3, Component 316)

Zabetian does not teach a first transmission step of transmitting from the data processing apparatus to the server apparatus, the extracted first feature information; However Cooley teaches it. (Cooley, Figure 3, S1, S2, S3, the extraction of the watermark is performed in user terminal also known as data processing apparatus prior being sent to the server)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Cooley into Zabetian. Zabetian teaches extracting the feature information of the document in the server and verifies the extracted information in the server. Zabetian also teaches transmission of the document through a network. To verify the document, the feature information is compared therefore it is not necessary to send the document to the server just the extracted information to improve transmission speeds because the larger the file, the longer it takes to transmit. Extracted feature information is smaller in size in data than

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the document. Cooley teaches the ability to extract the feature information prior to sending it to server. One of ordinary skill would have realized the benefits taught by Cooley and implemented it into Zabetian.

Zabetian does not teach and a print step of printing, at the print apparatus, information in accordance with the notified confirmation result; However Wu teaches it. (Wu, Paragraph [0120] – Paragraph [0126], it will print once verification of the document is made)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Wu into Zabetian. Zabetian failed to teach after authentication of the document, the possibility of further processing of the document such as printing or emailing it. Wu teaches the ability to print a document after verification of the document. One of ordinary skill could have easily attached a printer to the network of clients, LAN server, and certification provider to allow the user the ability to print a certified document.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the three references to obtain the invention in Claim 1.

As per Claim 17, Zabetian in view of Cooley and Wu teaches a data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising a second notification step of notifying, when the transmitted first feature information is registered, the data processing apparatus of the identification information indicating the registered first feature information. (Zabetian, Column 2, Lines 15-17, the notification to the user will be sending the identification code to the user)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 1.

As per Claim 18, Zabetian in view of Cooley and Wu teaches a data processing method according to Claim 17, further comprising: a generating step of generating, at the data processing apparatus, print data based on the first image data and the notified identification information; and a control step of causing the print apparatus to print the generated print data. (Wu, Paragraph

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[0120] – Paragraph [0126], it will print once verification of the document is made, to print requires generation of print data or conversion of document into printer readable data)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 18.

As per Claim 19, Zabetian in view of Cooley and Wu teaches a data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the notified confirmation result indicates whether or not the second image data is confirmed as a newest original. (Zabetian, newest original is interpreted as image data that has not been registered with the certification provider therefore is newest. Column 2, Lines 21-40, the process taught by Zabetian can be performed multiple times, Column 2, Lines 15-17, the notification to the user will be sending the identification code to the user if the second image has not been previously registered.)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 1.

As per Claim 20, Zabetian in view of Cooley and Wu teaches data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the notified confirmation result indicates whether or not the second image data is confirmed as a registered original. (Zabetian, registered original is interpreted as image data that has already been registered with the certification provider. Column 2, Lines 21-40, the process taught by Zabetian can be performed multiple times. Notification will be sent back to user if it's a match)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MING HON whose telephone number is (571)270-5245. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:30 to 5:00 EST; 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571)272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. H./

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Mark K Zimmerman/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625